

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 031755Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T ROME 7845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT US

SUBJECT: US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS - ITALIAN VIEWS ON PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: ROME 7386 AND 7714

1. AMBASSADOR INVITED FOREIGN MINISTER MORO AND SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA TO LUNCH WITH HIM AND DCM TODAY. MORO IS A LONG-TIME FRIEND AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM PERMITTING SERIOUS AND CANDID CONVERSATION.
2. MORO INDICATED THAT HE CONSIDERS A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PARTICULARLY IF THE PRESIDENT CAN MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EC COMMUNITY AND OF NATO. SUCH A MEETING OF COURSE PRESUMES (A) THAT A SUITABLE RESPONSE TO THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE WILL BE AGREED UPON AND (B) THAT THE FRENCH CAN BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG..
3. MORO BELIEVES THAT EVEN IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THE ABOVE IT WOULD STILL BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF THE PRESIDENT CAME TO EUROPE ANYWAY FOR BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS IN THE KEY CAPITALS. THESE VISITS WOULD GIVE A USEFUL IMPETUS TO THE WHOLE PROCESS OF US/EUROPEAN DIALOGUE. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT IT
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IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR US TO DEVELOP A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS IN ORDER TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES THAT EUROPE IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN ALL MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST AND TO ASSUME ITS SHARE OF THE DEFENSE BURDEN. GAJA COM-

MENTED THAT THIS POINT HAD BEEN MADE VERY CLEAR TO HIM AND DUCCI WHEN THEY WERE IN WASHINGTON JULY 16 AND 17.

4. MORO THOROUGHLY APPRECIATES THE NEED FOR PROGRESS THIS YEAR. AT THE SAME TIME HE RECOGNIZES THAT THE FRENCH MUST BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG AND THAT THE COPENHAGEN MEETING WAS SIMPLY THE BEGINNING. IN FACT WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM GAJA THAT THE FRENCH HAVE INDICATED SOME WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COPENHAGEN POSITION AND ARE ONCE AGAIN PROMOTING THE IDEA THAT NO RESPONSE TO THE KISSINGER APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE 1974. (FRENCH AMBASSADOR LUCET CALLED ON MORO RECENTLY.) AS EXAMPLE HE SAID THE FRENCH ARE NOW SUGGESTING THE EC MINISTERS ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11 SIMPLY DRAW UP A LIST OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH

THE UNITED STATES. THE ITALIANS CONSIDER THIS IMPOSSIBLE AND MORO HAS INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF TO PREPARE A DRAFT PAPER WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE LANGUAGE COVERING THE POINTS THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND WHICH IN A WAY COULD BE USED AS A DRAFT RESPONSE. THE ITALIAN EMBASSIES INVOLVED ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO PUSH HARD WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IN SEPTEMBER OF A DRAFT DECLARATION.

5. AS A RESULT OF GAJA AND DUCCI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON THE ITALIANS MAY BE WELL SUITED TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF DRAFT MOST NEARLY ACCEPTABLE

TO US. GAJA EMPHASIZED THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NO ILLUSIONS AS TO HOW FAR THEY CAN MOVE THE FRENCH BUT BELIEVE THEY MUST MAKE A STRONG EFFORT BETWEEN NOW AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. VOLPE

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